

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS 2003

Compiled by: Elke Herberger, USARERU Public Affairs Office, DSN 370-6647

- Aachen** **Weihnachtsmarkt**
24 Nov - 21 Dec 03
11 am - 8.30 pm, daily
One of the largest and prettiest Christmas Markets in Germany with sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up throughout the historical part of the city.
- Amberg** **Weihnachtsmarkt**
27 Nov - 23 Dec 03
10 am - 7.30 pm, daily
Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up at Marktplatz
- Annaberg** **Weihnachtsmarkt**
28 Nov - 21 Dec 03
Sun - Fri, 10 am - 7 pm,
Sat 10 am - 8 pm
A unique Christmas Market in a special region of Germany the Erzgebirge, here one still finds old fashion Christmas traditions.
www.annaberg-buchholz.de/weihmarkt.htm
Worth Seing !!!!
- Ansbach** **Weihnachtsmarkt**
28 Nov - 24 Dec 03
10 am - 7 pm, daily
Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up at Martin-Luther-Platz

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- Aschaffenburg Weihnachtsmarkt**
27 Nov - 22 Dec 03
Mon - Sat, 10 am - 9 pm
Sun, 11 am - 9 pm
Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up throughout the pedestrian zone.
www.weihnachtsmarkt.aschaffenburg.de
- Augsburg Christkindlesmarkt**
27 Nov - 24 Dec 03
Monday - Saturday, 9.30 am - 8 pm
Sunday, 10 am - 8 pm
Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up at the market square in front of the Renaissance Rathaus. 24 Angels will perform on the cornices of city hall on Saturdays and Sundays at 6 pm. With it's 500 year long tradition this is one of the most beautiful and oldest Christmas Markets in Bavaria.
- Bad Kreuznach Nikolausmarkt**
27 Nov - 7 Dec 03
Monday - Friday, 3 - 9 pm
Saturdays and Sundays, noon - 9 pm
Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up at the „Eiermarkt“ in the old section of Bad Kreuznach.
Worth Seing !!!!
- Bad Mergentheim Weihnachtsmarkt**
13 - 21 Dec 03
11 am - 6 pm daily
Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up at the historical city center.

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Bad Münster

Weihnachtsmarkt, inside the „Kurpark“

Sat 29 Nov, 6 Dec, 13 Dec, 2 – 9 pm

Sun 30 Nov, 7 Dec, 14 Dec, 1 – 9 pm

Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up throughout the Kurpark with its romantic atmosphere.

WORTH SEING !!!!

Bad Tölz

Christkindlmarkt

29 Nov – 24 Dec 03

11 am – 7 pm daily

Sales, food and beverage booths will be set-up throughout the historical Marktstrasse. One of the highlights are the performances of the famous “Tölzer Sängerknaben” [boy's choir]
For additional information on the concerts, please call Bad Tölz Tourist Information at 08041-78670.

http://www.bad-toelz.de/bad-toelz.de/Englisch/default_eng.htm

Bad Wimpfen

Altdeutscher Weihnachtsmarkt

Fri, 28 Nov – Sun, 30 Nov 03

Fri, 5 Dec – Sun, 7 Dec 03

Fri, 12 Dec – Sun, 14 Dec 03

Fridays: noon – 9 pm

Saturdays: 11 am – 9 pm

Sundays: 11.45 am – 9 pm

Sunday, 14 Dec, 11.45 am – 8 pm

This traditional German Christmas market will have booths set-up in the historical part of town.

Well worth visiting !!!

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- Bamberg** **Weihnachtsmarkt**
28 Nov - 23 Dec 03
Mon - Sat 8.30 am - 7 pm,
Sun 11 am - 7 pm
Approx. 50 Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up
at the Maxplatz.
- Bayreuth** **Chitistkindlesmarkt**
28 Nov - 23 Dec 03
Mon - Sat 10 am - 7.30 pm,
Sun 11 am - 7.30 pm
Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up
in front of Spintlarkirche.
- Berlin** **Weihnachtsmarkt**
There are many Christmas markets in the various "Bezirke"
districts of the city. See attached list, some of the dates
are not yet available, please contact me mid November for
additional info.
- Bernkastel-Kues** **Medieval Christmas Market**
29 Nov - 21 Dec 03
11 am - 7 pm daily
Bernkastel-Kues is an old pictures city on the Mosel river.
A traditional "Nikolausmarkt" will be set-up along the
banks of the Mosel river.
- There is a St. Nikolaus 10 km Volksmarch starting at the
market square, Sunday, 8 Dec 03, 10.30 am (fee €6 for
adults and €3 for children)

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Bonn

Weihnachtsmarkt

21 Nov - 23 Dec 03

Sun - Fri 11 am - 8 pm

Sat 10.30 am - 7.30 pm

Approx. 150 sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up throughout the pedestrian zone.

"Bonn on Ice" would you like to ice skate - come to Friedensplatz

Braunschweig

Weihnachtsmarkt

26 Nov - 28 Dec 03

Mon - Sat, 10 am - 9 pm

Sun 11 am - 9 pm

Holidays 1 - 9 pm, closed 24 and 25 Dec

This Christmas Market has a 300-year long tradition. More than 100 sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up throughout the historical part of the city.

www.weihnachtsmarkt.braunschweig.de

Bremen

Weihnachtsmarkt

27 Nov - 23 Dec 03

Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 8 pm

Sunday, 11 am - 8 pm

More than 170 sales, food and beverage booths will be set-up at the historical market square with it's famous Rathaus.

Chemnitz

Weihnachtsmarkt

29 Nov - 21 Dec 03

Sun - Thu, 10 am - 8 pm

Fri - Sat, 10 am - 8.30 pm

More than 170 booths are set-up throughout the historical part of the city. This region is famous for the wooden Christmas ornaments. A 12 meter high, wooden Christmas Pyramid is set up at the market square.

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- Cologne** **Kölner Weihnachtsmarkt**
24 Nov - 23 Dec 03
11 am - 9.30 pm daily
Explore all four Christmas markets of Cologne at Alter Markt in front of the Rathaus and St. Martin Church, or at Neumarkt, the oldest Christmas Market, or at Roncalliplatz with 160 pavilions around the famous cathedral and it's 10 meter high Christmas tree, or at Rudolfplatz the special place for children. There is also a Medieval Christmas Market in front of the chocolate museum in Cologne, **30Nov - 23 Dec, 1 - 9 pm, daily**, there is no electrical light and no "modern" items can be found for sell. **WORTH SEING !!!!**
- Creglingen** **Weihnachtsmarkt**
28 - 30 November only!!!
11 am - 6 pm
Very romantic in front of the historical city palace.
Worth Seing !!!
- Dinkelsbühl** **Weihnachtsmarkt**
27 Nov - 21 Dec 03
Monday - Thursday, 2 - 8 pm
Friday - Sunday, 11 am - 8 pm
With only 20 booths set-up at Weinmarkt a very smal, but worth seeing Christmas market.
- Dortmund** **Weihnachtsmarkt**
20 Nov - 23 Dec 03
Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 9 pm
Sunday, noon - 9 pm
Approximately 300 sales, food and beverage booths will be set-up downtown Dortmund. Dortmund has the world largest Christmas tree with approximately thirteen-thousand lights, according to the organizers.
www.weihnachtsmarkt-dortmund.de

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- Dresden** **569th Dresdner Striezelmarkt 1434 - 2003**
27 Nov - 24 Dec 03
Sun - Thu 10 am - 8 pm
Fri - Sat 10 am - 9 pm, 24 Dec 10 am - 2 pm
Dresden is the home of Germany's most famous Christmas cake "Dresdner Stollen". Another highlight is the 14-meter high Christmas-Pyramid, which is listed in the Guinness Book of Records, will be set-up at the market square.
If you haven't visited the eastern part of Germany this is a great opportunity! **Well worth visiting !!!**
- Düsseldorf** **Weihnachtsmarkt**
20 Nov - 22 Dec 03
11.30 am - 9 pm
There is a Nikolausmarkt in the historical part of the city and a Weihnachtsmarkt with approx. 260 booths throughout Königsallee to Schadowplatz
- Erfurt** **153rd Weihnachtsmarkt**
27 Nov - 22 Dec 03
10 am - 8 pm, daily
Approximately 200 sales, food and beverage booths will be set-up from Domplatz through Fischmarkt to Anger offering all the great Christmas goodies.
- Essen** **31th International Weihnachtsmarkt**
15 Nov - 23 Dec 03
11 am - 9 pm daily
This international Christmas market has it's 265 booths set-up throughout the city from Willy-Brandt-Platz through Rathausstrasse to Kennedyplatz and Limbecker Platz. The numerous attractions guarantee an eventful visit for the entire family.
www.weihnachstmakt.essen.de

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- Esslingen** **Medieval Weihnachtsmarkt**
27 Nov - 22 Dec 03
11 am - 8 pm daily
This is one of the small but really nice Christmas markets, which offers a fairy tale atmosphere between the pictures half-timbered houses. Booths are set-up from Rathausplatz to Postmichelmarkt in Esslingen by Stuttgart.
www.mittelalterliches-esslingen.de
Well worth visiting !!!
- Feuchtwangen** **Weihnachtsmarkt**
29 Nov - 20 Dec 03
Friday, 6 - 8.30 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 1.30 - 6 pm
With only 20 booths a very small but worth visiting Christmas market at the historical market square.
- Frankfurt** **Weihnachtsmarkt**
26 Nov - 22 Dec 03
10 am - 9 pm daily
The Frankfurt Christmas market has become one of the best known in Germany. This is attributed to the fact that the market has grown in size (approx. 200 businesses), to the historical background of the „Römerberg," to a varied assortment of goods, to the numerous special events connected with the Christmas market, as well as to the symbol of the season, the 30 meters high Christmas tree. The beautiful spruce tree is imported from Norway and presented by the German-Scandinavian Bank to the cities of Frankfurt, London and New York. Approx. three million visitors attend the market each year.

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Freiburg im Breisgau Weihnachtsmarkt
24 Nov - 23 Dec 03
Mon - Sat, 10 am - 8.30 pm
Sunday, 11.30 - 7.30 pm
Freiburg im Breisgau in the heart of the „Schwarzwald“ (Black Forest). If you want to get full enjoyment out of Freiburg, keep your senses alert to capture the atmosphere and feel the heartbeat of the city. Freiburg is the economic and intellectual center of southwest Germany. Cosmopolitan city or lovely and romantic small town, Freiburg is both.
Well worth visiting !!!

Fulda Weihnachtsmarkt
28 Nov - 22 Dec 03
Monday - Saturday, 11 am - 8 pm
Sunday, 12.30 - 7 pm
Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up throughout the historical part of the city.

Giessen Weihnachtsmarkt
28 Nov - 22 Dec 03
Monday - Saturday, 11 am - 8 pm
Sunday, 2 - 7 pm
Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up throughout the „Fussgängerzone“ (pedestrian zone)

Hanau Weihnachtsmarkt
28 Nov - 21 Dec 03
noon - 8 pm, daily
Approx. 70 sales, food, and beverage booths, will be set-up in front of city hall.

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Heidelberg

Weihnachtsmarkt

26 Nov - 22 Dec 03

11 am - 9 pm daily

Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up along the historical Hauptstrasse on Kornmarkt this is the place for children to be with lots of games and fun like the daily Christmas cookie bakery, 2 - 6 pm, or on Marktplatz around the Heiliggeistkirche and in front of the historical city hall, which gets illuminated daily at 5 pm, or on Universitaetsplatz which is with it's 80 booths the largest Christmas market in the city.

Heilbronn

Weihnachtsmarkt

27 Nov - 22 Dec 03

Monday - Wednesday, 11 am - 7.30 pm

Thursday - Sunday, 11 am - 8.30 pm

Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up between Marktplatz and Kiliansplatz. Special events are scheduled daily between 3 - 6 pm.

Kaiserslautern

Weihnachtsmarkt

24 Nov - 22 Dec 03

Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 9 pm

Sunday, 1 - 9 pm

A variety of retail, food, and beverage booths will be set-up around the "Stiftskirche" and "Schillerplatz"

Karlsruhe

Christkindlesmarkt

27 Nov - 23 Dec 03

Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 9 pm

Sunday, 11 am - 9 pm

Approx. 130 sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up on Marktplatz around a beautiful Christmas Pyramid.

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Kirchheim unter Teck Weihnachtsmarkt
4 - 14 Dec 03
Sunday - Wednesday, 11 am - 7.30 pm
Thursday, 11 am - 8.30 pm
Saturday, 10 am - 7.30 pm
Approx. 50 sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up
at the historical Marktplatz.
www.kirchheimer-weihnachtsmarkt.de
WORTH SEING !!!!

Koblenz Weihnachtsmarkt
21 Nov - 21 Dec 03
Monday - Friday, 10 am - 8 pm
Saturday, 10 am - 7 pm
Sunday, 11 am - 7 pm
One of the largest Christmas markets in the State of Rheinland-Pfalz. Sales, food and beverage booths will be set-up
throughout the historical "Altstadt".

Ladenburg Weihnachtsmarkt
28 Nov, 2 - 8 pm, 30 Nov, 1 - 8 pm
5 Dec, 4 - 8 pm, 6 Dec, 2 - 8 pm, 7 Dec, 1 - 8 pm
12 Dec, 4 - 8 pm, 13 Dec, 2 - 8 pm, 14 Dec, 1 - 8 pm
19 Dec, 4 - 8 pm, 20 Dec, 2 - 8 pm, 21 Dec, 1 - 8 pm
Sales, food and beverage booths set-up throughout this pictures
city.
WORTH SEING !!!!

Landsberg am Lech Christkindlmarkt
28 Nov - 14 Dec 03
Monday - Friday, 4 - 8 pm
Saturday - Sunday, 2 - 8 pm
Sales, food and beverage booths set-up at Georg-
Hellmair-Platz

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Leipzig

Weihnachtsmarkt

25 Nov - 23 Dec 03

Monday - Thursday, and Sunday, 10 am - 8 pm

Friday - Saturday, 10 am - 9 pm

One of the largest and most beautiful Christmas markets in Europe. **Well worth visiting !!!**

Ludwigsburg

Barock Weihnachtsmarkt

25 Nov - 22 Dec 03

Monday - Saturday, 10.30 am - 8.30 pm

Sunday, 11 am - 8.30 pm

This very special and romantic Christmas market has approx. 160 sales, food and beverage booths set-up at the pictures market square in the heart of Ludwigsburg. **Well worth visiting !!!**

Magdeburg

Weihnachtsmarkt

22 Nov - 23 Dec 03

Monday - Thursday, 10 am - 9 pm

Friday - Saturday, 10 am - 10 pm

Sunday, 11 am - 9 pm

Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up at Alter Markt in the historical part of the city. **Well worth visiting !!!**

Mainz

Weihnachtsmarkt

27 Nov - 23 Dec 03

Monday - Friday, 11 am - 8.30 pm

Saturday, 10 am - 9 pm (on 22 Dec till 7 pm only)

Sunday, 11 am - 9 pm

A variety of retail, food, and beverage booths will be set-up at „Domplatz“ (historical market square around the cathedral). **Well worth visiting !!!**

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Mannheim

Weihnachtsmarkt

26 Nov - 23 Dec 03

11 am - 9 pm daily

Approx. 200 sales, food and beverage booths will be set-up at Friedrichsplatz in front of Kunsthalle. Special events daily between 4 - 6 pm.

Michelstadt

Odenwälder Weihnachtsmarkt

28 Nov - 21 Dec 03

Wednesday - Friday, 2 - 8 pm

Saturday - Sunday, 11.30 am - 8 pm

Closed on Monday's and Tuesday's

Take a historic, walled city center and trim it with countless Christmas lights, decorate it with life-sized nutcrackers, Christmas pyramids, and native scenes, give it a light dusting of freshly fallen snow and let it resound with Christmas carols - and you have a pretty good idea of what the „Odenwald Weihnachtsmarkt“ in Michelstadt is like. **Well worth visiting !!!**

More Christmas markets in the Odenwald:

Erbach: 28 - 30 Nov, 5 - 7 Dec, 12 - 14 Dec,
Friday 3 - 8 pm, Saturday - Sunday, 11 am - 8 pm

Beerfelden: 29 - 30 Nov 03
Friday - Saturday, 3 - 8 pm, Sunday, 2 - 8 pm

Neckargemünd: 28 Nov 03

Neckarsteinach: 29 - 30 Nov 03

Miltenberg: 28 - 30 Nov 03

Rüdenau: 28 - 30 Nov 03

Obernburg: 29 Nov - 14 Dec 03

Kleinheubach: 29 Nov 03

Büttelborn: 29 - 30 Nov 03

Hardheim: 29 - 30 Nov 03

Lorsch: 29 - 30 Nov 03

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München

Christkindlmarkt

28 Nov – 24 Dec 03

Monday – Friday, 10 am – 8.30 pm

Saturday, 9 am – 8.30 pm

Sunday, 10 am – 7.30 pm, Christmas Eve 10 am – 2 pm

At Marienhof you can see a remarkable crib with almost life-sized figures. At the "Prunkhof" (courtyard) of the "Rathaus" you can see an old Bavarian crib. In Dulci Jubilo – Christmas carols are performed daily, at 5.30 pm from city hall balcony. Children, ages 6 - 12 can make (free of charge) Christmas ornaments from 1 to 21 Dec, daily at 2 – 3.30 pm and 3.45 – 5.15 pm at the "Himmelswerkstatt" inside city hall. There are lots of small but special Christmas markets throughout the city. It is advisable to go on an adventure tour and find them in Schwabing, at the "Chinesischen Turm," at the "Münchner Freiheit," at Haidhausen, or at Pasing.

Nürnberg

Christkindlesmarkt

28 Nov – 24 Dec 03

Monday – Wednesday, 9 am – 8 pm

Thursday – Saturday, 9 am – 9 pm

Sunday, 10.30 am – 8 pm, on 24 Dec, 9 am – 2 pm

Since 1628 a very traditional and well known Christmas market. Rewarding is a stroll through the streets and lanes of the old city with its Christmas decorations, where oases of tranquility away from the pre-Christmas bustle can always be found in such places as the craftsmen's courtyard or Jacob's market.

<http://www.christkindlesmarkt.de/>

Oberwesel

Weihnachtsmarkt

29 – 30 Nov 03

11 am – 6 pm

Small but very nice Christmas market at the historical market square.

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Regensburg an der Donau

Christkindlmarkt

27 Nov - 23 Dec 03

10 am - 8 pm, daily

One of the nicest Christmas markets in Germany.

Well worth visiting !!!

Reutlingen

Weihnachtsmarkt

28 Nov - 21 Dec 03

Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 8 pm

Sunday, 11 am - 8 pm

Sales, food and beverage booths will be set-up around
Marienkirche.

www.weihnachtsmarkt-reutlingen.de

Rosenheim

Christkindlmarkt

28 Nov - 24 Dec 03

11 am - 6 pm daily

Sales, food and beverage booths will be set-up at Max-Josef-
Platz.

www.rosenheimer-christkindlmarkt.de

Rostock

Weihnachtsmarkt

27 Nov - 22 Dec 03

Monday - Thursday, 10 am - 8 pm

Friday - Saturday, 10 am - 9 pm

Sunday, 11 am - 8 pm

The largest Christmas market in the north!

www.rostocker-weihnachtsmarkt.de

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Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Alt-Rothenburger Weihnachts - Reiterlesmarkt 28 Nov - 21 Dec 03

Monday - Friday, 12.30 am - 7 pm

Saturday, 10.30 am - 7.30 pm

Sunday, 10.30 am - 7 pm

The Christmas market is held beneath the twin towers and the illuminated windows of the St.-Jacobs-Church. This three dimensional picture brings to life the tranquil and sociable world of the period of romanticism.

Rüdesheim am Rhein

10th Christmas Market of the Nations 26 Nov - 21 Dec 03

Wednesday - Thursday, 2 - 8 pm

Friday, 2 - 9 pm

Saturday, 10 am - 9 pm

Sunday, 10 am - 8 pm

In the old part of Rüdesheim, 124 Christmas booths will feature food, customs, and crafts. All products are presented by 12 different nations in their own native manner.

<http://www.weihnachtsmarkt-der-nationen.de/>

Saarbrücken

Christkindl-Markt 27 Nov - 23 Dec 03

11 am - 8.30 pm, daily

Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up throughout the historical part of the city. Daily events on stage at St. Johanner Markt, between 3 - 7.30 pm.

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Schweinfurt

Weihnachtsmarkt

28 Nov - 22 Dec 03

Monday - Wednesday, 11 am - 7 pm,

Thursday - Friday, 10 am - 8 pm,

Saturday, 10 am - 7 pm,

Sunday, 11 am - 7 pm

Sales, food, and beverage booths will be set-up at the historical market square in front of city hall.

Speyer

Weihnachtsmarkt

24 Nov - 22 Dec 03

11 am - 9 pm daily

Sales, food and beverage booths will be set-up in the center of the historical city. The "Kinderbackstube" bakery for children is open daily 2.30 - 6 pm.

www.speyer.de/de/tourist/feste/weihnacht

Straubing an der Donau

Christkindlmarkt

27 Nov - 23 Dec 03

Monday - Wednesday, 10 am - 8 pm

Thursday, 10 am - 9 pm

Friday - Saturday, 10 am - 8 pm

Sunday, noon - 8 pm

Very romantic Christmas market - **Worth seeing !!!**

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Stuttgart

Weihnachtsmarkt

28 Nov - 23 Dec 03

Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 8.30 pm

Sunday, 11 am - 8.30 pm

Since 1692 one of the most beautiful and largest Christmas markets in Europe. When this Christmas market with its festive decoration and aroma of candyfloss, grilled sausages, and mulled wine and the colorful offers entire guest from home and averred in the Stuttgart's city center, the little folks also know that something special is in store for them. They can ride the children's railway or take a turn on the merry-go-round on the „Schlossplatz“ in front of the „Königsbau“ (King's building). The fairy tale land at the Christmas market with its three performances is open 2 - 8 pm daily.

<http://www.stuttgart.de/>

Tauberbischofsheim

Weihnachtsmarkt

5 - 21 Dec 03

Friday's and Sunday's only, 10 am - 8 pm

Very romantic Christmas market at the Schlossplatz.

Worth seeing !!!

Trier

Weihnachtsmarkt

24 Nov - 22 Dec 03

Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 8.30 pm

Sunday, 11 am - 8.30 pm

The huge "Trier Christmas Bear" will welcome you in Germany's oldest city. A variety of retail, food, and beverage booths will be set- up at the "Hauptmarkt" and "Domfreiheit" in historical downtown Trier.

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Ulm

Weihnachtsmarkt

25 Nov - 22 Dec 03

Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 8.30 pm

Sunday, 11 am - 8.30 pm

Approx. 120 sales, food and beverage booths will be set-up in front of the Ulmer Münster, the famous cathedral at the historical part of town.

Wiesbaden

Weihnachtsmarkt

25 Nov - 23 Dec 03

Monday - Friday, 10 am - 8 pm

Saturday, 10 am - 8.30 pm

Sunday, noon - 8 pm

A variety of retail, food, and beverage booths will be set up throughout the pedestrian zone and „Luisenplatz“ near „Bonifatius“ church.

Wolfenbüttel

Weihnachtsmarkt

27 Nov - 22 Dec 03

Monday - Saturday, 11 am - 8 pm

Sunday, noon - 8 pm

This Christmas market is set-up in front of the historical city hall, build 1609. Appros. 45 sales, food and beverage booths offer everything one is looking for at a Christmas market.

Worth seeing !!!

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Würzburg

Weihnachtsmarkt

28 Nov - 23 Dec 03

Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 8 pm

Sunday, 11 am - 8 pm

This Christmas market has a long tradition since 1800. This year approx. 65 sales, food, and beverage booths will be set up at the historical market square in front of "Marienkapelle".

A special arts and crafts Christmas market will be set-up at the city-hall court-yard, 10 am - 7 pm on weekends only.

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Rothenburg ob der Tauber – Christmas Market

Every year Rothenburg ob der Tauber is transformed from a summer's dream into a winter wonderland. Experience this enchanting atmosphere at the Christmas market, the so-called "Reiterlesmarkt." This market dates back to the 15th century and is therefore one of the oldest in Germany.

Its name refers to an old Teutonic legend. In pre-Christian time, the Tautens believed in a rider who took care of the souls of the dead. Whereas the Tautens were afraid of this mystic figure, the behavior toward this rider changed in the middle ages. Everyone began looking forward to his visits, because – according to the legend – he turned from a wild, rude man into a friendly messenger, who brings gifts to all men on earth. A painting of this famous rider can be seen on the facade of the town hall.

But on several occasions he comes alive, for example, opening day of the market or when the children of the town do their candlelight procession.

Loudness is out of place at the market, where citizens and tourists meet, drinking the traditional hot wine.

As the old year comes to an end and the new one begins, there is little time to be bored. Every day there are several cultural events ranging from organ concerts to Puppet Theater.

Opening hours Christmas market
28 November – 21 December 2003
Monday – Friday, 12.30 – 7 pm
Saturday, 10.30 am – 7.30 pm
Sunday, 10.30 am – 7 pm

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Stuttgart Christmas Market

.... the largest and prettiest Christmas market in Europe.

It was once called "Christkindlmarkt" and it was in fact a market, which turned the squares and alleys around the Town Hall into children's wonderland. It was first documented in 1692, which gives us an impression of just how traditional the Stuttgart Christmas market is.

The great days of the potters, tanners, and blacksmiths have long gone. Troops of acrobats, tightrope walkers, and dancing bears, the old fairytale figures, and jesters have also disappeared. What is left is a village of sales booths with wooden toys, Christmas ornaments, pots, and cotton socks, gingerbread and pumpernickel, roasted almonds and grilled sausages and all the sounds and smells which are part of Christmas. Just like the huge Christmas tree in front of the Rathaus – town hall. The novelty sellers are still here today. You can perhaps remember that the Christmas market was and is, above all, a market and it should stay that way in the future.

Stuttgart's Christmas market is located in the city center, only five minutes away from the main train station. The many shops in the nearby pedestrian zone make Christmas shopping a real shopping pleasure!

Children's world on the "Schlossplatz"

When the Christmas market with its festively decorated booths, the aroma of candy floss, grilled sausages and mulled wine and the colorful offers entice guests from home and abroad in the Stuttgart's city center, the little folk also know that something special is in store for them. Under the watchful eyes of mother, father, grandparents, elder sister or brother, they can ride on the children's railway, take a turn on the merry-go-round on the Schlossplatz (Palace Square) in the front of the Königsbau (King's Building), or they can enjoy the free stage performance from 2 – 4 pm daily.

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS 2003

Compiled by: Elke Herberger, USARERU Public Affairs Office, DSN 370-6647

Christmas Market in the courtyard of the "Altes Schloss"

The "Alte Schloss" with its mighty walls and towers is located in the heart of Stuttgart and right in the center of the Christmas market. It is now used as a historical and physical setting for the collections of the Württemberg State Museum. In addition to the magnificent altars containing Christmas scenes and the Neapolitan Nativity Crib, the Württemberg State Museum will stage two special exhibitions this year.

Opening hours Christmas market

28 November – 23 December 2003

Monday – Saturday, 10 am – 8.30 pm

Sunday, 11 am – 8.30 pm

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS 2003

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Munich Christmas Market

Thousands of people, filled with expectations, have crowded to Marienplatz in the heart of the city when Munich's Lord Mayor formally opens the Munich Christmas Market at 5 pm each year on the Saturday before the first day of Advent. Then the almost 30 meter high Christmas tree in front of the Town Hall sparkles for the first time in the radiance of its splendor lit up by 2,500 candles. The Christmas market remains open until 23rd December from 10 am to 8.30 pm (on Saturdays from 9 am to 7.30 pm, on Sundays from 10 am to 7.30 pm)

Munich's Christmas Market, or Christkindlmarkt, has a long tradition. A forerunner, the Nicholas Market, was mentioned in the town's annals as far back as 1310. For many centuries the people thronged into the square in front of the St. Michaelis Church in the Neuhauser Strasse, bought Christmas decorations and nativity figures, candles, and toys – and looked forward with the children to Christmas. In 1597 the market had to move for the first time in its history, and in 1805 the "Christmas Market" became into being. But it found in 1972 its final location in the heart of Munich.

The Crib Market

Inspired by the historical nativity crib in the town hall courtyard and the almost life-sized figures of the Oberammergau crib, collectors and devotees soon find their way to the large Crib Market at the Marienhof behind town hall. Here you can find a large selection of crib figures and accessories to trim the crib at home.

Traditional Crafts

Crowds of young and old onlookers surround the stands of the craftsmen. Many of them can be watched at work. A glassblower conjures up iridescent Christmas tree balls. At the wax-chandlers stall children may paint candles in their favorite colors. The tinsmith creates traditional figures for the Christmas tree.

Gifts and Souvenirs

There is a very large range of Christmas goods on sale at the 140 market booths. Toys made of wood, nostalgic and modern Christmas decorations, candles, gift wrapping paper, dolls, traditional confectionery such as "Springerle" (aniseed-flavored biscuits), gingerbread, "Früchtebrot" (loaves containing dried fruit) and figures made of prunes are on sale in a very wide variety.

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Festive Advent Music

At 5.30 pm every evening traditional folk music and Christmas carols are played at the Christmas market. Groups from the alpine foothills and the city sing and play music from the balcony of the town hall for visitors to the market. Munich's broad, multicultural landscape ensures a varied program, which includes Greek, Japanese, and Spanish choirs.

Santa Claus

On December 5 and 6, it is especially the children who are drawn to the market. Nikolaus or Santa Claus has announced his arrival. He speaks from the balcony of the town hall, praising the children who have behaved themselves and admonishing those who have made the lives of their parents and teachers difficult.

Food and Drink

Following the enjoyments for eye and ear, aromas promising culinary delights lure us to the snack stands. A large variety of sweet and savory goods are offered to the visitors. Besides grilled sausages, pork sausages, and cheese specialties there are freshly baked waffles, hot fried apple rings, and to warm you up, mulled wine in artistically designed cups, ideally suitable as little gifts to take home from pre-Christmas Munich.

Child Care Service

So that parents can buy the presents undisturbed and at their leisure the Youth-Red-Cross provides childcare for the 4- to 14-year-olds in the town hall canteen on Saturdays during the Advent. The youngsters can play there from 9 am to 7.30 pm

The Heavenly Workshop

During Advent, children ages 6 to 12 can go to the so-called Heavenly Workshop "Himmelswerkstatt" in the town hall. Every afternoon they transform themselves into fanciful angels, making Christmas tree decorations, painting, playing music and acting in plays with qualified instructors, from 2 to 5.30 pm

Christmas mail and special stamps

In the inner courtyard of city hall is a Christmas Post Office from the village of the Christkindl in Austria. Here from the first Sunday in Advent to the middle of December, visitors can post their Christmas mail which, provided with artistically designed Christmas stamps and franked with the word "Christkindl," will be sent anywhere in the world. A treat for philatelists is the special franking "Münchner Christkindlmarkt," which is printed on all letters and cards posted in the special mailbox at a desk in city hall.

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Bright Lights wherever you look

In addition to the traditional Christmas market on the Marienplatz, there are many other Christmas markets throughout the city. These are organized privately or by charities. What they have to offer is creative and diverse. You will find arts and crafts, such as silk painting and ceramics, African woodwork, hand-made paper and unusual toys. The food and drink ranges from the everyday to the exotic. Each market attracts its own clientele, and so Advent in Munich reveals itself in many different ways.

- Schwabing Christmas Market, Forum Münchner Freiheit
- Schwabing Christmas Market, Elisabethplatz
- The Munich Christmas Market at the Sendlinger Tor
- Tollwood – The Winter Festival, Hackerbrücke
- The Christmas Market at the Kunstpark Ost
- The Christmas Market at the Rotkreuzplatz
- The Haidhausen Christmas Market at the Weissenburger Platz
- The Christmas Market at the Chinese Tower
- Pasing Christmas Market, Schererplatz (Sat and Sun only)
- The Ramersdorf Christmas Market, Aribonenstrasse
- The Christmas Market at the Hellabrunn Zoo
- The Nutcracker Market, Candidplatz
- The Moosbach Munich Christmas, St. Martinsplatz
- Christmas Market at the Parkcafé, Sophienstrasse
- The Garmischer Hof Christmas Market, Hinterbärenbadstrasse
- Blütenburg Christmas, courtyard in front of the Blütenburg Palace
- The Hadern Christmas Market in front of St Canisius Church
- The Feldmoching Christmas Market, Feldmochinger Str. 400
- The Christmas Market at the Rose Garden, Westpark (Fri – Sun)

Go on a journey of discovery and track down some of the many Christmas markets in the city.

Opening hours Christmas market

28 November – 24 December 2003

Monday – Friday, 10 am – 8.30 pm

Saturday, 9 am – 8.30 pm

Sunday, 10 am – 7.30 pm

Christmas Eve, 10 am – 2 pm

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Freiburg im Breisgau

If you want to get full enjoyment out of Freiburg, keep your senses alert to capture the atmosphere and feel the heartbeat of the city. The Alemannic way of life, the university and the wide variety of cultural activities are all part of its vitality. Striking buildings like the "Konzerthaus Freiburg" or the new congress center, testify: Freiburg is the economic and intellectual center of southwest Germany. Cosmopolitan city or lovely and romantic small town, Freiburg is both. When you're talking about Freiburg, you mustn't forget the local Baden cooking. With gourmet meeting places ranging from the "Markthalle" or the "Fressgässle" to the "Colombi Hotel," there are regional or international specialties to suit every taste. You can treat yourself to your heart's content. Enjoy a unique taste of the Freiburg way of life - with, for example, "Schäufele" (salted, lightly smoked pork shoulder) or "Knöpfle" (literally -little buttons- made of potato and sauerkraut) and a glass of the famous Baden wine. \

Opening hours Christmas market

24 November - 23 December 2003

Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 8.30 pm

Sunday, 11.30 am - 7.30 pm

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS 2003

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Frankfurt

By Bernardine Klein

Location:

Pedestrian Zone, Zeil, Liebfrauenplatz, Paulsberg, Römerberg, Fahrter, Mainkai

Historical Background:

The Frankfurt Christmas market at Römerberg can be traced back as far as 1393. In conjunction with the Christmas market, a reenactment of the Christmas story was usually held at Römerberg. In the late 15th century, the market was called "Christkindchesmarkt", meaning "Little Christ Child's Market", but there was no Christmas tree as yet. The Christmas tree, our best known symbol of the season, was "invented" in the early 19th century.

Back in the 15th century, the Christmas market was an event solely for citizens of Frankfurt; no strangers were admitted. Thus the market had a very uniquely Frankfurt flair. The best locally produced handicraft items were offered for sale, as well as toys, sweets, and Christmas gifts. Up until the 1870s and 1880s, it was customary for parents to purchase their children's Christmas toys only at the Christmas market. Many of the old Christmas customs are about culinary pleasures. The so-called "Brenthen", "Bethmännchen", and the "Quetschenmännchen" (made of dried prunes and figs) can look back over a long tradition. A shy suitor in the 19th century would send the girl he wished to court a "Quetschenmännchen". If she kept it, he had reason to hope; if she sent it back to him, he knew that he did not have a chance with her.

Today's "Weihnachtsmarkt"

The Frankfurt Christmas market has become one of the best known in Germany. This is attributable to the fact that the market has grown in size (to approx. 200 businesses), to the historical background of the "Römerberg", to a varied assortment of goods, to the numerous special events connected with the Christmas market, as well as to the symbol of the season, the Christmas tree. Approximately three million visitors come to the market each year.

The Frankfurt Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree placed atop the "Römerberg" is approx. 26 to 30 meters high and imported from Norway. The German-Scandinavian Bank presents such a beautiful spruce tree to the cities of Frankfurt, London, and New York each year.

Opening hours Christmas market

26 Nov - 22 Dec 2003, 10 am - 9 pm daily

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Berlin

Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf

Weihnachtsmarkt at the Gedächtniskirche

24 Nov - 28 Dec 03

Sunday - Thursday, 11 am - 9 pm

Friday - Saturday, 11 am - 10 pm

Christmas Eve, 11 am - 2 pm

This is probably the most popular Christmas market in Berlin with approx. 4 million visitors strolling along the approx. 140 booths.

Nußknackermarkt im Kranzler Eck

Dates are not yet available

Monday - Friday, 10 am - 10 pm

Saturday, 9.30 am - 10 pm

Sunday, 11 am - 22 pm

Weihnachtsmarkt in der Wilmersdorfer Strasse

Dates are not yet available

Monday - Friday, 10 am - 8 pm

Sunday, 1 - 7 pm

Weihnachtsmarkt City at Breitscheidplatz

24 Nov - 28 Dec 03

Sunday - Thursday, 11 am - 9 pm

Friday - Saturday, 11 am - 10 pm

Marzahn-Hellersdorf

Weihnachtsmarkt Hellersdorfer Strasse 77-83

Dates are not yet available

Monday - Friday, 9 am - 8 pm

Saturday, 9 am - 6 pm

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Weihnachtsmarkt im Marktplatz Center

Dates are not yet available

Monday – Friday, 9 am – 8 pm

Saturday, 9 am – 6 pm

Weihnachtsmarkt in "Helle Mitte"

Alice-Salomon-Platz and Kurt-Weill-Gasse

Dates are not yet available

Monday – Friday, 2 am – 8 pm

Saturday – Sunday, 10 am – 8 pm

Mitte

Weihnachtsmarkt at Alexanderstrasse

24 Nov – 21 Dec 03

Monday – Friday, 1 am – 9 pm

Saturday, 11 am – 10 pm

Saturday, 11 am – 9 pm

Weihnachtsmarkt at Alexanderplatz

24 Nov – 24 Dec 03

10 am – 8 pm, daily

International market with approx. 150 booths

Weihnachtsmarkt at Opernpalais

Unter den Linden

24 Nov – 28 Dec 03

Monday – Thursday, noon – 8.30 pm

Friday, noon – 9.30 pm

Saturday – Sunday, 11 am – 9.30 pm

Nostalgic market with approx. 130 booths

Weihnachtsmarkt at Gendarmenmarkt

24 Nov – 24 Dec 03

Monday – Thursday, 11 am – 8 pm

Friday – Sunday, 11 am – 10 pm

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Neukölln

Adventsmarkt at Karl-Marx-Strasse

Dates are not yet available

Monday – Friday, 10 am – 8 pm

Saturday, 9.30 am – 7 pm

Pankow

Weihnachtsmarkt at S-Bhf. Pankow

Garbatyplatz old Garbaty Factory Area, Berliner Strasse 123

Dates are not yet available

Monday – Friday, 11 am – 8 pm

Saturday – Sunday, 11 am – 9 pm

3rd LUCIA Weihnachtsmarkt

At the "Kulturbrauerei"

28 Nov – 21 Dec 03

Monday – Friday, 4 pm – midnight

Saturday – Sunday, 1 pm – midnight

Reinickendorf

Weihnachtsmarkt at Kurt-Schumacher- Platz

Dates are not yet available

Monday – Friday, 10 am – 8 pm

Saturday, 9 am – 6 pm

Alt-Tegeler Weihnachtsmarkt

In Alt-Tegel and area of Tegel harbor

Dates are not yet available

Monday – Thursday, 11 am – 8 pm

Friday – Saturday, 11 am – 9 pm

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Weihnachtsmarkt at Heinsestrasse

Crafts from Erzgebirge – Santa Claus comes in his sleight and brings gifts to the children

Dates are not yet available

Spandau

30th Spandauer Weihnachtsmarkt

historical part of Spandau

24 Nov – 23 Dec 03

Monday – Saturday, 10 am – 8 pm

Sunday, 10 am – 7 pm

A Christmas dream between Nikolai-Church and the “red” city hall

Weihnachtsmarkt at “Gotischen Haus”

Breite Strasse 32

Dates are not yet available

Monday – Friday, 10 am – 6 pm

Saturday – Sunday, 10 am – 7 pm

Small Weihnachtsmarkt and New Year's Market at Rathausvorplatz

Dates are not yet available

10 am – 10 pm, daily

Treptow-Köpenick

Weihnachtsmarkt

Historical part of Köpenick around the Schlossplatz

Dates are not yet available

Monday – Friday, 2 – 8 pm

Saturday – Sunday, 11 am – 10 pm